

MORAL CAMEOS, FOR MUSALMANS

How many-so-ever be
The angels in the heavens,
Their intercession will avail no-
thing
Except after God has given
Leave for whom He pleases
And that he is acceptable
To Him
But they have no knowledge
Therein. They follow nothing
But conjecture; and conjecture
Avails nothing against truth.
—The Quran; Najm; 26 and 28

Dawn

Friday, January 3, 1947.

CONGRESS AND LABOUR

THE Labour Member, Mr. Jagjivan Ram, who since his elevation from an obscure once in Bihar to the position of a member of the Central Government has been preaching to the Indian workers the gospel of 'pure trade unionism' has lately followed it up when he addressed a meeting at Madurai. He exhorted the workers not to allow themselves to be exploited by 'interested parties' for political or sectional ends. In fact this seemingly simple and innocuous advice has always been the theme of the propaganda speeches of Congress leaders among workers. Even apart from the fallacy of this argument the Indian workers would have thanked Mr. Jagjivan Ram and his like had they cherished the slightest illusion about Congress pretensions as to their abounding love for labour. Except in the case of Ahmedabad where the workers had to undergo Gandhian baptism in the twenties, the Indian workers all these years never found the Congress leaders bothering themselves about their conditions. The Congress ministries never redeemed the election pledges of the Congress to the workers. The treatment meted out to the workers by them to say the least has been most disappointing and has led to the amelioration of the conditions of the working class.

Mr. Jagjivan Ram's advice to the workers, it appears, mainly aimed at discrediting Congress rivals and non-congress elements in the trade union movement. His advocacy to workers not to allow themselves to be exploited for party purposes, should not, however, be mistaken to mean that the Congress would not like to dominate the workers' movement or to capture their organised unions. Although in his definition of the 'interested parties' he does not include the Congress, it is an open secret that the Congress is trying to fasten the trade unions to the chariot of Congress organisation. The formation of the Hindustan Mazdoor Sewak Sangh under the inspiration of Mr. Patel is an attempt to popularise the programme of the Congress among the workers and to create a solid Congress base among them. Such attempts, in fact, have also been made in the past but this new attempt is aimed at establishing Congress monopoly in the domain of labour. Mr. Jagjivan Ram, if he has any courage of conviction, should no doubt address his warning to the Congress in particular. Constituted as it is, the Congress cannot be expected to champion the cause of the working classes as against the employers and it should be the aim and objective of labour leadership to keep itself free from Congress dictation.

GONE WITH THE WIND

Titles will no longer be conferred on Indians by His Majesty the King nor by the Viceroy. An official communique from New Delhi announced this decision on the New Year's Day. Indian political parties, it appears, are opposed to the continuance of a practice which is almost coeval with the establishment of British rule in India. Twice in a year, for nearly two centuries, these honours' lists have brought in their trails two contrary feelings, transporting some to the seventh heaven of gratified vanity and bringing bitter disappointment to others. To those receiving titles those letters of the English alphabet which go to constitute them have been what hoarded gold bars are to the miser. Both are given to gloating over their respective possessions. Such men will bewail the New Delhi communique. But men who loathe tinsels and can distinguish between the genuine and the meretricious will welcome it as marking the end of a corrupting influence which has turned out toadies and flunkies by thousands for a long time. In the discontinuance of this long-established custom the Muslim League can with pardonable pride, claim no small share. Who can forget that memorable session of the All-India Muslim League Council in Bombay on July 29 last year when Nawabs and Knights, not to speak of many lesser fry, threw away all the honours conferred on them by the British as though they were so many dud glass plinters. Those who renounced their titles then may now very well flatter themselves that others have followed in their footsteps.

Ceylon Ministers Faith in Indian Independence

BENARES, Wednesday
DOCTOR C. A. KANNANGARA, Minister for Education, Ceylon, Government, speaking at a public meeting here tonight expressed the hope that "Mother India" would attain her complete freedom and would guide and protect the nations of Asia.

Doctor Kannangara stated that in 1947 Ceylon would get a Cabinet system of Government under the Solbury recommendations. He continued "we shall get something almost like Dominion Status, but not full Dominion Status."

"We shall have to fight for our freedom and independence. I hope the day will not be far distant when you will achieve that. We know the birth pangs through which India has passed. But nothing will please the rest of Asia and particularly Ceylon than to see after all these pangs a beautiful, free and happy India."

"The child of freedom be born with full promise not only for India, but also for the rest of the nations of Asia. Ceylon will only be happy to see India leading and setting an example and protecting every nation, weak and strong, high and low, Ceylon also included among them."

"Ceylon will be happy to deal with 'Mother India' with whom we have the very closest of ties. Ambassadors have come several times from India and they have shown us the path of freedom. The great Asoka sent his son to Ceylon to introduce Buddhism."

"The gift of Buddhism was brought to us by the son of Asoka and when he went there, he told our King that he had come to Ceylon out of compassion for us and Buddhism is thriving in Ceylon even at present. It has become part and parcel of our history and life, we are thankful for it."—API.

CANADA TO FOLLOW U.K. AND U.S. LEAD IN ARMS

OTTAWA, Thursday: Officials here said today that Canada would follow whatever the United States decided on the standardisation of arms. They doubted whether standardisation would reach anything like that indicated in a Paris newspaper report today which predicted a "single fighting arm extending from Asia Minor to Japan and from North Pole to Rio Grande."—Reuter.



In a recent speech tried to impress his audience with his definitions and messages to "his" people.

LETTERS to the EDITOR

RAM RAJ IN RESERVE BANK

Sir,—The paucity of the Muslim representation in the Reserve Bank services (in all Grades) throughout India is an admitted fact and needs no comments. Lahore Office of the Reserve Bank is no better. The following table clearly explains the plight of the Muslims in this Office:—

Post	Total	Hin-	Mus-	Sikhs-
		mus.	lims.	lims.
Manager	1	—	1	—
Asst. Currency Officer	2	2	—	—
Accountant	1	1	—	—
Superintendents and Probationary Assistant	12	8	1	3
Total	16	11	2	3

From the above data it will be observed that out of the twelve posts of Superintendents, etc., only one is occupied by a Muslim. Muslims who are in an overwhelming majority in the Punjab get the least share in higher grades. The rights of senior and trained Muslims have been totally ignored and the Non-Muslims have been given undue promotions. Whenever a post of a Superintendent falls vacant either a non-Muslim is allowed to override a Muslim on flimsy grounds or a raw, inexperienced Hindu is transferred from other Offices to Lahore to rule out the possibility of experienced, senior and trained Muslims getting chances of promotion.

Much has been said and written about it in the past but practically no improvement has been made. Instead the position of Muslims is further deteriorating. The plea that qualified and experienced Muslims are not available does not hold good any longer.

The situation demands a thorough and impartial enquiry so that confidence may be restored in the minds of Muslim employees of the Reserve Bank who through the machinations of Hindu Officers are leading a very suppressed existence. It is earnestly to be hoped that the Governor and the two Deputy Governors will look into the matter immediately to redress these genuine and long-standing grievances.—Yours, etc.,

"TYRANNISED"

Lahore.

IQBAL'S LECTURES

Sir,—Allama Iqbal has written in the VI lecture of his famous book, "The Reconstruction of Religious Thought in Islam" as follows:

A modern historian of civilisation has thus depicted the state of the civilised world about the time when Islam appeared on the stage of History:

"It seemed then that the great civilisation that it had taken four thousand years to construct was on the verge of disintegration, and that mankind was likely to return to that condition of barbarism where every tribe and sect was against the next, and law and order were unknown. The old tribal sanctions had lost their power. Hence the old imperial methods would no longer operate. The new sanctions created by Christianity

were working division and destruction instead of unity and order. It was a time fraught with tragedy. Civilisation, like a gigantic tree whose foliage had ever-reached the world and whose branches had borne the golden fruits of art and science and literature, stood tottering its trunk no longer alive with the flowing sap of devotion and reverence, but rotted to the core, riven by the storms of war, and held together only by the cords of ancient customs and laws, that might snap at any moment. Was there any emotional culture that could be brought in to gather mankind once more into unity and to save civilisation? This culture must be something of a new type, for the old sanctions and ceremonials were dead, and to build up others of the same kind would be the work of centuries."

The Allama has neither mentioned the name of the "modern historian of civilisation" referred to, nor the book from which the above extract has been taken and my efforts to trace the book in question have failed so far. It was suggested that the extract might be from "Emotion as the basis of civilisation" by Dennison, but unfortunately it has not been possible for me to get the book anywhere in India or from the U.K. I shall be grateful if any learned friend will kindly refer me to the book containing the above extract, or, if it is from Dennison's let me know where the book can be had from.—Yours, etc.,

PARVEZ

37, Turkman Road,
New Delhi.

MUSLIM EMPLOYEES

Sir,—The Leaderette in your esteemed daily of December 23, 1946, deals with the most important subject of the day viz., the question of protection of the rights and interests of the Muslim Employees in Government Departments, not only Central but also Provincial.

Let me assure you that the voice you have so strongly raised on the subject is the embodiment of the feelings of all Muslim Public Servants in India. As mentioned by you in details the eve of the last Budget Session of the Central Assembly saw the appointment of a Committee by the Muslim League Party to safeguard the interests of the Muslim Employees of Government Deptt.

May I most humbly invite the attention of all the Provincial Muslim League organizations as well as the All-India Muslim League to manage somehow or other despite their present difficulties and pressure on their time to mark off a set body of the League's respected leaders in each Province with the definite object allotted to them to devote themselves to the protection of the rights and claims of the Muslim Servants through organising and patronising their regular organizations.

The duties of the Muslim Public Servants to themselves are too great to be ignored and it is high time that they realized the importance of forming their unions.—Yours, etc.,

MD. IQBAL

Moradabad.

Americans Surprised by Truman's Announcement

WASHINGTON, Wednesday
PRESIDENT TRUMAN'S dramatic proclamation ending World War II, hostilities puts an automatic end to 20 U.S. laws and involves the expiry of 33 others within the next six months.

One of the most important statutes thus ended is the Smith-Connolly Act which gives the President power to seize vital industries brought to a standstill by strikes. These powers are now being used to operate coal-mines which are suffering from disputes between the owners and the workers.

Although America as a whole has been agitating for a rapid end of wartime controls and to some extent elected a Republican Congress to ensure that free enterprise is returned to the U.S.A., the nation as a whole has been somewhat bewildered by this sudden termination of the emergency measures, some of which are still being applied throughout the country. Private enterprise, now more than ever, assumes the responsibility for ensuring a rapid recovery of American industry and commerce.—Globe.

More Stabbing in Bombay

BOMBAY, Thursday
THREE stabbing incidents have been reported from Byculla and Nagpada areas this morning, states a Press Note issued by the Director of Publicity.

The Press Note adds stone-throwing and looting occurred last night in Byculla, Mahabouri and Princess Street areas. Police fired five rounds to stop looting and stone-throwing. One person was injured in the firing.—API.

PETHIDINE CONTROLLED IN BRITAIN ALSO

LONDON, Wednesday: A new drug, Pethidine, developed by Swiss scientists just before the war has now been placed under the control of the Dangerous Drugs' Act in Britain. The investigation of the drug has shown that its use is likely to result in addiction.

In Germany steps were taken to place it under the same control as morphine and other dangerous drugs as early as 1941. Early in 1945, the League of Nations' Health Committee recommended that Pethidine should be added to the list of drugs covered by the international conventions relating to narcotics.

Since then there has been conclusive evidence of the misuse of the drug, so the Home Office has felt it essential that the same measures of control be applied to Pethidine as to morphine, heroin and cocaine.—Globe.

King Ibn Saud's Son Honoured

AMMAN, Thursday.

EMIR Faisal, King Ibn Saud's son, visiting Trans-Jordan, received a Nahda medal (Inlaid) from King Abdullah on Tuesday. He was the King's guest who entertained him to a dinner at Raghdan Palace.

Speaking to 'Globe' Emir Faisal expressed great hope of consolidation of the Arabs' position in the world. "It is the duty of the Arabs to continue their efforts and activities in various ways both in America and in Britain to convince political circles of the justice of our case", he said.

Emir Faisal, who has returned from UNO, added that the unity between the Arabs at UNO existed despite many manoeuvres against them.

Faisal's brother Emir Saud leaves for the United States on January 10 on a purchasing mission on behalf of King Ibn Saud.—Globe.

BRITAIN TAKES MONOPOLY OF COAL MINES

LONDON, Thursday: The British Government took monopoly control of the Nation's coal mines on Wednesday and immediately announced an ambitious programme of modernisation to increase production.

Members of the National Coal Board announced that most of the Nation's collieries will be converted from hand to mechanical loading, an undertaking they said may require from ten to 20 years. Approximately 1,500 collieries most of them worked by hand loading changed hands in the deal and the Board became employer of 6,90,000 mine workers, a figure which it hopes to increase substantially through better working conditions, and better pay and a five-day week.—APA.

LEAKAGE OF ATOMIC SECRETS

WASHINGTON, Thursday: Major-General Leslie R. Groves, head of the Atomic Bomb Research Project, yesterday reiterated his belief that some atomic secrets were being circulated abroad.

Asked whether he believed some atomic information was in unauthorised hands, General Groves said: "That is unquestionably true," citing the Canadian spy report.

General Groves left the atom job on Tuesday, when control of the United States' Atomic Energy programme was shifted to a Civilian Commission.—APA.

EGYPTIAN DEFENCE MINISTER RESIGNS

CAIRO, Thursday: Ahmed Attiah Pasha, Minister of National Defence, yesterday submitted his resignation to Nokrashi Pasha, Egyptian Premier, it was officially announced here last night.

The reason for the resignation was the dispute between Ahmed Attiah Pasha and the Chief of Staff of the Egyptian Army, Ibrahim Attiah Pasha.—APA.